

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claim 11 was objected to because the phrase applicants attempted to add in the prior amendment filed 28 October 2003 was struck through rather than underlined. In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, this phrase is superfluous and therefore was omitted in the current listing of claim 11. This objection is now moot.

Claim Rejections

Claims 11-20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over W098/29466 to Bolte in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,846,163 to Kest.

Bolte discloses a polyurethane prepolymer formed by sequential reaction of a polyvalent alcohol with first and second disocyanates, the second disocyanate having a faster rate of reaction than remaining unreacted isocyanate groups on the first disocyanate. The composition is then hardened by reaction with a typical hardener to form a cured composition. There is no suggestion in Bolte of forming a pressure sensitive adhesive or using a hardener wherein the ratio of isocyanate groups to isocyanate-reactive functional groups is about 0.75:1 to about 1.15:1.

Kest discloses elastomer-based pressure sensitive adhesives formed by reaction of a diene telechelic polymer with a coreactant. The diene telechelic polymer has a hydrocarbon backbone that has been copolymerized with a vinyl having a functional group. The functional group may be hydroxyl. The

coreactant may be a diisocyanate. The coreactant provides a ratio of coreactant functional groups to the functional groups in the diene telechelic polymer (and, when used, those of a reactive polyester or polyether and extending or crosslinking compound) of 0.75 to 1.20, such as 0.95 to 1.12.

Kest's ratio thus relates to isocyanate groups on a diisocyanate and hydroxyl groups on a hydroxy-functional polymer. There is no suggestion in Kest that the same ratio be applied to isocyanate groups on a polyurethane prepolymer that is the **reaction product** of a polyol component with diisocyanates and the corresponding isocyanate-reactive functional groups of a hardener.

Claim 11 recites a composition comprising (i) a polyurethane prepolymer, which is the reaction product of a polyol component with two difunctional different isocyanates, and (ii) a difunctional hardener comprising at least two isocyanate-reactive functional groups per molecule. The ratio of isocyanate groups in the prepolymer to isocyanate-reactive functional groups is about 0.75:1 to about 1.15:1. Support for the amendments to claim 11 is found on page 25, lines 1-6.

There is no suggestion in Bolte or Kest of using a hardener with reactive functional groups in the ratio claimed. If anything, Kest suggests that the ratio of isocyanate groups in Bolte's diisocyanate to the functional groups in Bolte's polyvalent alcohol should be 0.95 to 1.12. It suggests nothing about the ratio of isocyanate groups on the polyurethane prepolymer product of these two reactants to reactive groups of a hardener. Thus, the combination of Kest with Bolte does not suggest the composition presently claimed. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 11, and claims 12-16 and 19-20 dependent

therefrom, distinguish patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

Claim 18 recites a process for the production of a polyurethane composition including forming at least one polyurethane prepolymer and reacting the polyurethane prepolymer with an at least difunctional hardener comprising at least two isocyanate-reactive functional groups per molecule. The ratio of isocyanate groups in the prepolymer to isocyanate-reactive functional groups is about 0.75:1 to about 1.15:1.

Bolte makes no suggestion of reacting a prepolymer with a hardener in such a ratio. Kest discloses a ratio of isocyanate groups in a diisocyanate to functional (hydroxyl) groups in a diene telechelic polymer of 0.95 to 1.12. There is no suggestion in either Bolte or Kest that the same ratio be applied to isocyanate groups on a **reaction product** of a diisocyanate with a polyol component. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 18 distinguishes patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

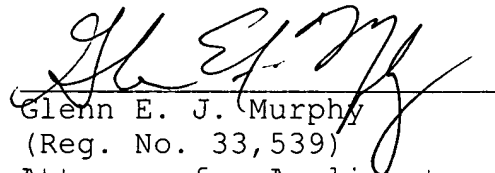
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims (claims 11-20). Applicants further ask for extension of the period for response to be extended three months to May 26, 2004 and authorize a charge to Deposit Account No. 01-1250 in the amount of \$950.00 for the extension fee. Order No. 04-0182.01. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this

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Amendment that have not been accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,


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